

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting
Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID
February 12, 2015
The Way In, Salvation Army

Attendance: **HED Committee Members present:** John Tronson, Frank Babitch, Carol Massie, Derick Malec . Not present: Monica Yamada, Chad Lewis. **SVBID Committee Members present:** Fred Rosenthal, Fabio Conti. Not present: Elizabeth McDonald, Anthony Bell. **Liaisons:** Joe Salazar, Bill Farrar, John Adams, Steve Seyler, Andrews International. Deputy Santiago Robles, Deputy Parott, LA County Sheriff. Captain David Storaker, LAPD. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Joseph Mariani. Dan Haldan, CD-13. Guests: Jenn Hoyt, Second City; Karen Weiner, Salvation Army.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Tronson and Fred Rosenthal at 10:15 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: Jen Hoyt, representing Second City, shared an incident involving some of their students leaving late at night who were encountered by some gang members. They had to flag down a passing LAPD – and it has created a great deal of concern about safety at night.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee reviewed the meeting notes from their January 8, 2015 meeting
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler presented the report for the period 1/1/15 through 2/1/15. He reported that the Andrews International team participated in the homeless count. He shared some specific homeless outreach stories, including one about a long-standing mother and son homeless in the Sunset BID who are now in the Winter Refuge at Hollywood Presbyterian Church. He also shared how BID patrol is passing out information about AA meetings in the area. Over the course of this period, the officers initiated 85 private persons arrests.

B. Report from LAPD: Captain Storaker reported that aggravated assaults in the Division are up over this period last year, but robberies are down. He said the number of patrol cars deployed in the box defined at the Hollywood Entertainment District have increased; the ceiling from six months ago is now the floor. With respect to the homicide last Saturday night at Las Palmas, it involved three gang members and one suspect has been arrested. He assured the committee, and the guest, that deployment is up and the gang unit is focused upon this issue.

C. Report from LA Sheriff's Department: Deputy Robles reported that there were two robberies on the Hollywood platforms in January. Both involved robberies of phones and in both instances the suspects were apprehended.

D. CD 13 -- Dan Haldan reported there are a couple projects the council office is working on. One is to resurrect the cards for distribution to tourists that indicate that there is no obligation to give tips to characters or CD vendors. The councilmember continues to make it a priority to pursue means to curb the aggressive behaviors of the street characters. He also indicated that the CD-13 website has a comprehensive info page about homelessness, and what the city can and cannot do relative to encampments and belongings left on the street. He also reported that there will be three new traffic signals slated for Hollywood in the coming two years. The first will be at Sunset & Las Palmas. The second at Hollywood & McCadden and the third at Gower and Selma. He reported that WOF repair will begin on Monday February 16 on the east sidewalk between Selma and Sunset. It will take about six months.

V. New Business

A. Video Surveillance Working Group – Joe Mariani reported that the ad-hoc group had visited the station to tour the detectives' room where the camera monitors are located. (That trip included Tronson, Folb and Rosenthal). They discussed some of the enhancements that would be useful to LAPD, including more disk storage space and strategically located cameras. Morrison suggested that next month the Security Committee be held at the station so everyone could see the system in action. Mariani will bring back cost information for enhancements.

B. Homeless issues – Morrison reported that the unofficial numbers for the bi-annual homeless count show an increase. The official report will be released by LAHSA in June, but a review of the tally sheets presented after the homeless count confirmed what everyone has noticed. Further, the end of month count conducted by BID Patrol in both BIDs shows an increase of 81 people over this time last year (155 in January 2014 compared to 236 in January 2015). Morrison is working on a presentation to both BID boards on this topic, but some of the underlying reasons may be related to: influx of young people into area; increase in drug use (especially crystal meth); impact of AB 109 realignment; impact of Prop 47 passed by voters in November which renders six former felony offenses to misdemeanors and may be resulting in more people involved with drugs staying on the street.

C. Night-time walk: Morrison and Leron Gubler at the Chamber have discussed the idea of organizing another midnight walk of Hollywood Blvd in March or April, since it has been two years since the last walk.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2015.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.